

Minist of the United States,

Philadelphia, Jan. 10, 1859.

Sir,

As requested in your favor of the 8th inst. I have examined the letter of the 1st Decr. at New Orleans, in reference to the circulation of the gold dollars in that City.

From the reasons stated by Mr. Girard, the 1st Decr. it is advisable that you should direct the 1st Decr. at New-York not to send gold dollars to New Orleans, as they have a superabundance of that Coinage on hand.

The discrediting of this Coin by the Banker is one of the fruits of our pernicious banking system. Whenever small notes are issued, or circulated, the efforts of the banks are directed against the circulation of such of the Coins of the U. States as conflict with their notes. And I am sorry to say

that Government officers are very much disposed to avoid the labor of counting small coins, and hence to encourage the use of the double eagle only, because it suits their personal convenience best.

At New York both these causes have led to the accumulation of a large amount of gold dollars in the Assistant Treasury.

As we have no power to apply remedies against the evils of a small note circulation, we must necessarily suit our coinage to the actual demands of depositors. The last year, the whole coinage of gold dollars at all the mints amounted only to \$230,000. I will continue to restrict the coinage of that denomination to the actual demand. At present we have at the mint only \$10,000, and in the Asst. Treasury, less \$4,000.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,

Yours faithful servant,
James Ross Snowden,
Director of the Mint.

Gen. Howell Cobb,
Sec. of the Treasury,
Washington City.

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Mint of the United States
Philadelphia
January 11, 1859

Hon. Howell Cobb
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington City

Sir,

As requested in your favor of the 8th inst., I have considered the letter of the Asst. Treas. at New Orleans in regard to the circulation of gold dollars at that city.

From the reasons stated by Mr. Guirot, the Asst. Treas., it is advisable that you should direct the Asst. Treas. at New York not to send gold dollars to New Orleans as they have a superabundance of that coinage on hand.

The discrediting of this coin by the banks is one of the faults of our [present] banking system. Whenever small notes are issued or circulated, the efforts of the banks are directed against the circulation of such of the coins of the United States as conflict with their notes. And I am sorry to say that government officers are very much disposed to avoid the labor of counting small coins, and hence to encourage the use of the double eagle only because it suits their personal convenience best.

At New York both these causes have led to the accumulation of a large amount of gold dollars in the Assistant Treasury.

As we have no power to apply remedies against the ills of small note circulation, we must necessarily suit our coinage to the actual demand of depositors. The last years, the whole coinage of gold dollars at all the mints amounted only to \$230,000. I will continue to restrict the coinage of other denominations to the actual demand. At present we have at the mint only \$10,000, and in the Asst. Treasury here, \$4,000.

I have the honor to be,
With great respect,
Your obedient servant
James Ross Snowden
Director of the Mint